

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 16-19 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 being independent. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11-14 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-13 have been amended and Claims 16-19 have been added herein.

Initially, Applicants respectfully request that the election of species requirement be reconsidered and that at least Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 15 be deemed generic. It is also requested that the non-elected claims be rejoined and be allowed with the elected claims. Reasoning and support of the foregoing is set forth in the Response to Election of Species Requirement filed May 18, 2005. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,364,452 (Noyes et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,409,318 (Clark). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With the foregoing amendments, Applicants wish to make clear that both the ink droplets of the first volume and the ink droplets of the second volume are used in printing in each of the first and second modes. As to Claims 2 and 3, for example, both the ink droplets of the first volume and the ink droplets of the second volume can be used in printing except for an area having maximum density with regard to a prescribed color. In other words, between the first mode and the second mode, a combination of ink droplets is

changed only for printing the maximum density area with regard to a prescribed color. In the first mode, the combination of ink droplets can be determined as shown in Fig. 6A, while in the second mode, the combination of ink droplets can be determined as shown in Fig. 6B. As a result, the problems described in Applicants Fig. 10 can be avoided.

Noyes et al. relates to color printing using multiple inks. Printheads on certain cartridges can eject ink of different-size droplets. In Noyes et al., a high speed mode or a high resolution mode can be selected. However, Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere does Noyes et al. describe using two sizes of ink droplets in both the high speed mode and the high resolution mode. Nor is there any suggestion of changing the combination of ink droplets between the high speed mode and the high resolution mode.

Accordingly, Noyes et al. fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of modes including a first mode in which printing in a prescribed area is completed in a predetermined time and a second mode in which printing in a prescribed area is completed in a time longer than the predetermined time, with each of the first mode and the second mode carrying out printing using the ink droplets of a first volume and ink droplets of a second volume, and a number of ink droplets of the second volume used in printing an area expressing maximum density (or maximum saturation) in regard to a prescribed color in the first mode is less than a number of ink droplets of the second volume used in printing the area in the second mode, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 18.

Nor does Noyes et al. disclose or suggest a plurality of modes including a first mode in which printing in a prescribed area is performed by scanning the ink-jet printhead a predetermined number of times and a second mode in which printing in the

prescribed area is performed by scanning the ink-jet printhead a number of times greater than the predetermined number of times, with each of the first and second modes carrying out printing using ink droplets of a first volume and ink droplets of a second volume, and (A) in a case where the first mode has been selected, an area expressing maximum density (or maximum saturation) with regard to a prescribed color will be printed using ink droplets of the first volume rather than ink droplets of the second volume, and (B) in a case where the second mode has been selected, the area expressing maximum density (or maximum saturation) will be printed using both the ink droplets of the first and second volumes, as is recited in independent Claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 13 and 19.

Thus, Noyes et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Clark describes an ink jet printhead having firing chambers for large-volume drops used in draft-mode printing and chambers for smaller drop volumes for high-quality printing. As understood by Applicants, in Clark, no large-volume drops are used in high-quality printing and no smaller-volume drops are used in draft-mode printing. Because Clark does not disclose or suggest that the first and second modes carry out printing using ink droplets of both the first and second volumes, Clark fails to remedy the deficiencies of Noyes et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

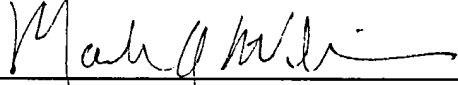
Thus, independent Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19. Dependent Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 16 and 17 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW\mt

DC_MAIN 214743v1